

Governor Sebelius Opens April Health Disparities Conference

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius will provide the opening address to the 2006 Health Disparities Conference: Healthy Cultures, Healthy Kansas, sponsored for the second straight year by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), on April 14. It will be held from 7 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. at the Maner Conference Center / Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka.

Dr. David R. Williams, a nationally recognized author and researcher on social influences on health, will make a return trip to Kansas as the conference's keynote presenter. Williams, a University of Michigan Professor, is a nationally recognized author and researcher on social influences on health and is centrally interested in the trends and determinants of socioeconomic and racial differences in mental and physical health.



[Rep. Peter J. Koutoujian](#) will provide the luncheon address. He is the chair of the Massachusetts House Joint Committee on Public Health, and serves as co-chair on a commission to study health disparities among ethnic and racial minorities.

This year's conference will recognize a Kansan for their work as a community champion for their efforts to improve the public health of racial and ethnic populations across the state. Also, the conference will host a '*Taste of Cultures*' Legislative and Constituent Networking Reception on Thursday, April 13 from 5 – 9 p.m. as part of its conference early registration period.

More than 13 speakers will present breakout presentations on today's best practices toward eliminating health disparities along with more than 24 commercial exhibitors serving various health markets. Health professionals and community champions from across Kansas and the Midwest will share best practices to learn about new strategies and resources to improve the health of diverse racial and ethnic populations across the state.

Registration and conference materials are available on the web to organizations and individuals specializing in improving the health of racial and ethnic populations in Kansas, according to Sharon Goolsby, program coordinator for the Office of Minority Health.

For more conference information, e-mail: minorityhealth@kdhe.state.ks.us or go to www.minorityhealthks.org.